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U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Van Rooijen *et al.*

Serial No.: 10/032,201
Conf. No.: 4943

Customer
No.: 24961

Filed: December 19, 2001

For: METHODS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF
MULTIMERIC PROTEIN COMPLEXES,
AND RELATED COMPOSITIONS

Art Unit: 1638

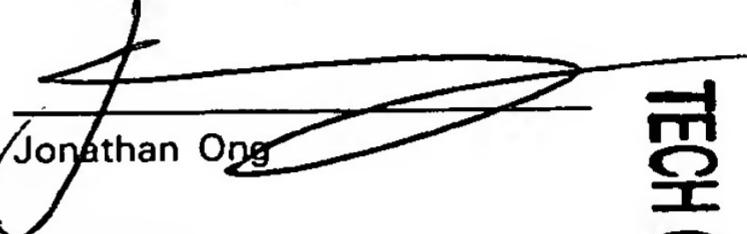
Examiner: Fox, D. T.

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450


Jonathan Ong

PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53(e)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

This is a petition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.53(e) in response to page 2 of
the Office Action, mailed May 27, 2003. The following are enclosed in
connection with this Petition:

1. A copy of the Office Action, mailed May 27, 2003;
2. Page 1 of the specification;
3. A copy of the returned date-stamped postcard;
4. A copy of the Express Mail label dated December 19, 2001;
5. A check in the amount of \$130.00 for the petition fee (C.F.R.
1.17(h)); and
6. Transmittal letter in duplicate.

REMARKS

The Office Action, mailed May 27, 2003, states that page 1 of the
application is missing and provides alternative approaches for response to this
issue. Applicant is filing this Petition in accordance with Option C, outlined in

07/30/2003 MMKONEH 00000095 10032201

01 FC:1251 110.00 OP

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07/30/2003 MMKONEH 00000095 10032201

02 FC:1460 130.00 OP

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U.S.S.N. 10/032,201

Van Rooijen et al.

Petition Under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(e)

the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that a complete specification was filed.

The purpose of this Petition is to request that the filing date of December 19, 2001, is granted to the above-identified application. The following remarks will describe (1) patent applications are carefully reviewed and packaged for completeness before they are hand carried to the Post Office for mailing to the Patent Office, (2) chronological files of documents filed with the PTO are complete, (3) documentation mailed by the PTO prior to the Office Action, mailed May 27, 2003, did not show that page 1 was missing from the specification, and (4) problems with incomplete documents sent to the PTO due to the mail handling procedures of the D.C. Post Office during this time period.

Our office mailed the instant application to the PTO, Washington, D.C. 20231 mailing address on December 19, 2001, as evidenced on the attached Express Mail label EL870637445US. The application containing 146 pages including claims and abstract; sequence listing containing 202 pages; and 8 sheets of drawings, were received by the PTO on December 19, 2001, as indicated by the date-stamped returned postcard.

Our office follows specific procedures to ensure that a specification and accompanying documents are completely intact before they are placed in an Express Mail envelope. Specifically, we always print out the specification and make sure that we file that original with the PTO. The attorney in charge, as well as two other people, review the specification for completeness and count the number of pages and review all documents twice before placing the documents into an Express Mail envelope. After we have completed all of the procedures set forth above, the application is personally hand delivered to the Post Office.

In addition, our standard procedure is to keep a chronological copy of the entire set of documents that are filed with the PTO. We have reviewed the copy of the instant application and have identified that we have a complete

**U.S.S.N. 10/032,201
Van Rooijen et al.
Petition Under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(e)**

copy of the specification, including page 1. Since we have these procedures in place, and have determined that a complete copy of the application is in our chronological file, we can attest that a complete specification was mailed, including page 1 of the specification, to the D.C. Post Office.

It is also noted, that in the Notice to File Missing Parts mailed February 22, 2002, and in the Notice to Comply with Requirements for Patent Application Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures mailed May 8, 2002, the PTO did not indicate that page 1 was missing from the specification. Accordingly, page 1 was present at that time.

During the same time period, our office encountered a number of instances of papers filed with the Patent Office in which the pages were missing or damaged. It was discovered that some of the U.S. mail was being contaminated with Anthrax. As a result, the D.C. Post Office irradiated all mail for a period of a few months in order to stop the contamination process. Due to this process, many of the documents mailed to the D.C. Post Office during that time were either lost, mutilated or destroyed by the irradiation process. Thus, it appears that page 1 was damaged or lost by the Patent Office subsequent to receipt.

Review of this Petition, entry of missing page 1 in the application and granting December 19, 2001, as the application filing date are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
HELLER EHRLMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP

By: _____
Stephanie Seidman
Registration No. 33,779

Attorney Docket 38814-351B
Address all correspondence to:
HELLER EHRLMAN WHITE & McAULIFFE LLP
4350 La Jolla Village Drive, 7th Floor
San Diego, California 92122-1246
Telephone: (858) 450-8400 Facsimile: (858) 587-5360
E-mail: sseidman@hewm.com